

Nebraska eHealth Plan

Vision, Goals, Objectives and Strategies

Sept. 23, 2009

The NITC eHealth Council has developed a vision, guiding principles, goals, objectives and strategies to guide Nebraska's implementation of statewide health information exchange.

Vision

Stakeholders in Nebraska will cooperatively improve the quality and efficiency of patient-centered health care and population health through a statewide, seamless, integrated consumer-centered system of connected health information exchanges. Nebraska will build upon the investments made in the state's health information exchanges and other initiatives which promote the adoption of health IT.

Guiding Principles

The development of health information exchange in Nebraska will:

- Utilize national standards and certification to facilitate interoperability.
- Utilize solutions which are cost-effective and provide the greatest return on investment.
- Utilize a sustainable business model.
- Leverage existing eHealth initiatives and investments in Nebraska.
- Support the work processes of providers.
- Encourage ongoing stakeholder engagement and participation in development of the state plan and throughout all stages of implementation.
- Support consumer engagement and ensure the privacy of health information.
- Encourage transparency and accountability.
- Measure and report goal- and consumer-centered outcomes of investments of public dollars.

Goals

These goals will be achieved while ensuring the privacy and security of health information, which is an essential requirement in successfully implementing health information technology and exchanging health information:

- Using information technology to continuously improve health care quality and efficiency through the authorized and secure electronic exchange and use of health information.
- Improve patient care and consumer safety;
- Encourage greater consumer involvement in personal health care decisions;
- Enhance public health and disease surveillance efforts;
- Improve consumer access to health care;
- Improve consumer outcomes using evidence-based practices.

Objectives

Adoption

- Encourage and support health IT adoption by providers.
- Build an appropriately-trained, skilled health information technology workforce.
- Encourage and support the adoption of personal health records.
- Improve health literacy in the general population.

Governance

- Address issues related to governance, oversight, and financing of health information exchange.
- Ensure transparency and accountability.

Finance

- Support the development of a sustainable business model for health information exchange in Nebraska.
- Leverage the state's role as a payer to support health information exchange.

Technical Infrastructure

- Support the development and expansion of health information exchanges to improve the quality and efficiency of care.
- Support the development of interconnections among health information exchanges in the state and nationwide.
- Promote the development of a robust telecommunications infrastructure.

Business and Technical Operations

- Support meaningful use.
- Encourage the electronic exchange of public health data.
- Encourage the integration of health information exchange with telehealth delivery.

Legal and Policy

- Continue to address health information security and privacy concerns of providers and consumers.
- Build awareness and trust of health information technology.

Strategies

Adoption

- Partner with the Regional Center serving Nebraska to facilitate provider adoption of EMRs and attainment of meaningful use requirements.
- Work with eligible providers to utilize Medicaid and Medicare incentives.
- Encourage efforts to offer affordably priced and effective EMR options.
- Consider the needs and uses of all providers.
- Spread innovation by highlighting successful provider implementation models (i.e., physician practices, critical access hospitals, and pharmacies).

Governance

- Formalize the relationships among and responsibilities of NeHII as the State Designated Entity, the state's health information exchanges, the State HIT Coordinator, and the NITC eHealth Council.
- Develop mechanisms to ensure accountability and transparency.

Finance

- Encourage and support the effective use of investments, including:
 - Leveraging existing and planned investments in health information exchange, public health, Medicaid, and other programs.
 - Leveraging Medicaid administrative funding for provider incentives.
 - Leveraging other programs which support health information exchange, workforce development, and broadband development.
 - Identifying sources of grant funding to fund start up costs and accelerate implementation.

Technical Infrastructure

- Facilitate participation in existing health information exchanges to ensure statewide coverage.
- Coordinate the statewide technical architecture to support HIE integration.
- Assure the technical architecture meets the overall clinical and policy objectives of the state.

- Enumerate the critical environmental assumptions that the technical architecture must address, including interactions among HIEs and other partners.
- Address issues related to broadband access and affordability if necessary.

Business and Technical Operations

- Continuously assess and prioritize additional functionality to address meaningful use requirements.
- Support the development of effective analytics reporting for decision support and quality reporting.
- Encourage and support e-prescribing and refill requests.
- Provide prescription fill status and/or medication fill history.
- Encourage and support the provision of electronic health information to patients.
- Partner with payers and other stakeholders to develop strategies to improve care coordination and quality and efficiency of health care.
- Encourage electronic reporting and use of public health data.
- Provide electronic eligibility and claims transactions.
- Provide electronic clinical laboratory ordering and results delivery.
- Provide clinical summary exchange for care coordination and patient engagement.

Legal/Policy

- Coordinate with the Attorney General's Office, State HIT Coordinator, and the privacy and security officers of the state's HIEs to develop a framework for privacy and security enforcement.
- Continue to review and update privacy and security policies.
- Investigate statutory barriers to health information exchange.
- Provide information on privacy and security to providers and consumers through a privacy and security website and brochure.
- Establish a collaborative infrastructure with the ongoing capacity to identify issues, consider options, and advance recommendations through a transparent and inclusive decision-making process.
- Encourage the harmonization of policies related to access, authentication, audit and authorization.